

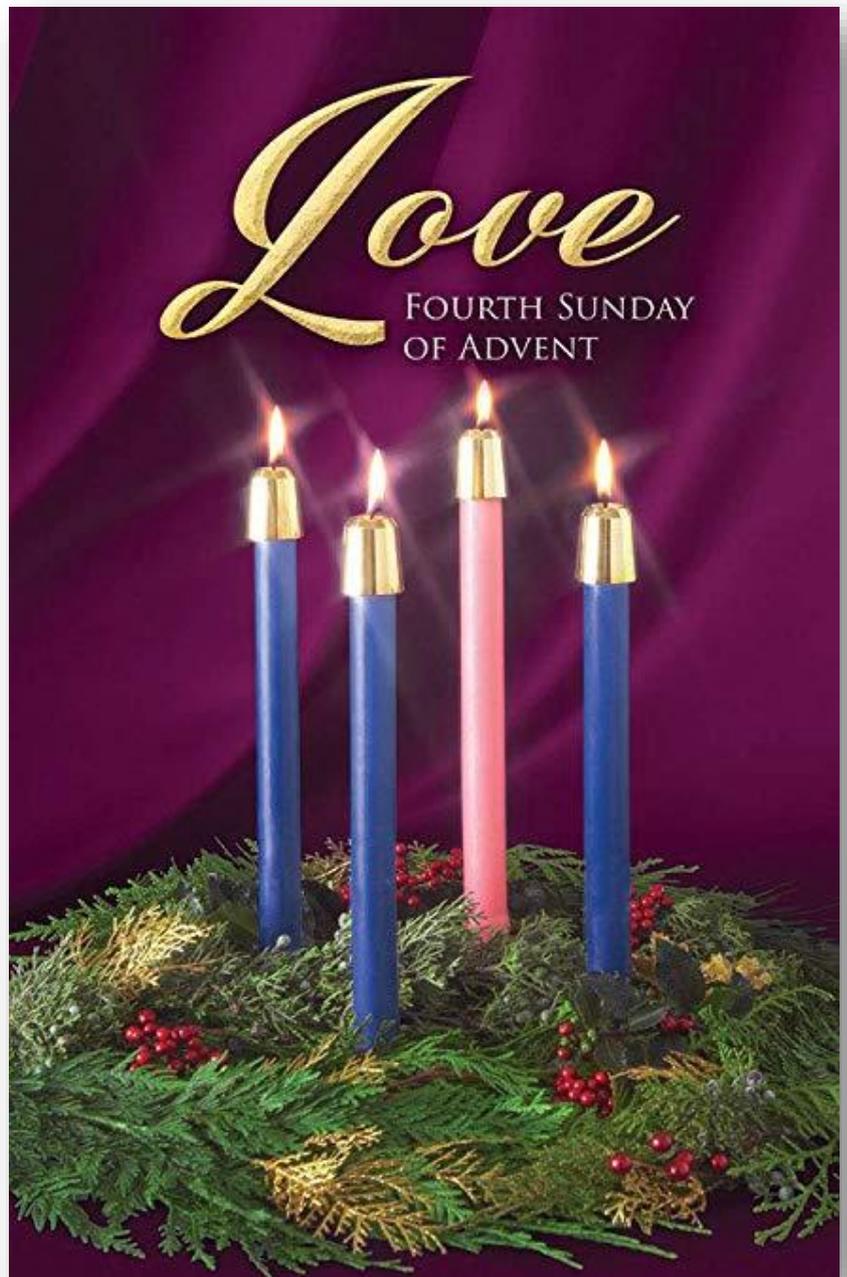
# Anglican Parish of Avon

**Sunday 22  
December,  
Advent 4.**

**Priest in Charge,  
The Reverend  
Dave Perryman.**

***Welcome – Wunan  
Njinda to: -***

***A Service of Holy  
Communion - 8.30am  
at St Mary's &  
10am Holy Trinity  
Church, Stratford.***



**All are welcome to worship in our  
parish today.**

You are invited to light a 'Prayer Candle' and enjoy morning tea after the Services. Toilets are located at the rear of the Hall. Holy Trinity is fitted with a hearing loop. Please note that the Holy Trinity Chancel floor slopes up from the front pews to the Lectern; please use the handrail as needed and take care, thank you.

*We acknowledge the Gunai Kumai people as the original inhabitants of this land. We acknowledge their elders past and present and their children who are their hope for the future.*

## **GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME**

**Opening Hymn: MP: 266 'I cannot tell . . .'** (V1,3,4)

**Welcome and Introduction.**

**Greeting, Call to Worship.**

**Sentence of the Day**

A virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel: God with us. *Matthew 1.23*

**Lighting of the Advent Candle**

We gather in hope, for God is  
with us,

**even when hopefulness struggles to take root in our world.**

We gather in peace, for Jesus,  
Prince of Peace, is with us,

**even when peace seems  
overtaken by war and violence.**

We gather in love, as the Spirit  
weaves amongst us,

**even though hate seeks to take  
hold in the world.**

We are not alone.

**Let us worship God.**

***Lighting of the Advent Candle:***

We light the fourth Advent

candle - love. Love had to wait for now. But together, hope, peace and joy join

with love, burning strongly, as we anticipate the Christmas story to be born again in our own lives, with the knowledge that Jesus loves and cares for us.

O God, come journey with us through Advent.

**Give us courage to spread love in the world. Amen.**

**Advent Song: TiS 286 ‘Light one candle . . .’ (V1,2,3,4)**

**Prayer of Preparation**

**Confession and Absolution**

**Prayer of the Day**

Gracious God,  
you chose the virgin Mary, by your grace,  
to be the mother of our Lord and Saviour:  
so fill us with your grace,  
that with her we may rejoice in your  
salvation, and in all things embrace  
your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**



## **THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD**

### **CHOOSE TO TRUST**

*The characters and communities in this week’s readings have all experienced turmoil. Joseph wrestles with how to cope with the news that the woman he is engaged to is pregnant with a child who is not his. The land of King Ahaz is in turmoil, and a psalmist’s community has experienced a disaster. Paul’s letter to the Romans is perhaps less about turmoil and more about identity in Christ.*

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### **A Reading from the Book of Isaiah**

<sup>10</sup> Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, <sup>11</sup> Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. <sup>12</sup> But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. <sup>13</sup> Then Isaiah said: ‘Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup> Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. <sup>15</sup> He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. <sup>16</sup> For before the child knows

how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted. *Isaiah 7.10-16*

Hear the word of the Lord  
**thanks be to God.**

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### **Psalm 80.1-7, 17-19**

- <sup>1</sup> Hear, O Shepherd of Israel,  
you that led Joseph like a flock:  
you that are enthroned upon the cherubim,  
shine out in glory;
- <sup>2</sup> **Before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh:  
stir up your power, and come to save us.**
- <sup>3</sup> Restore us again, O Lord of hosts:  
show us the light of your countenance,  
and we shall be saved.
- <sup>4</sup> **O Lord God of hosts:  
how long will you be angry at your people's prayer?**
- <sup>5</sup> You have fed them with the bread of tears:  
and given them tears to drink in good measure.
- <sup>6</sup> **You have made us the victim of our neighbours:  
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**
- <sup>7</sup> Restore us again, O Lord of hosts:  
show us the light of your countenance,  
and we shall be saved.
- <sup>17</sup> **Let your power rest on the man at your right hand:  
on that son of man  
whom you made so strong for yourself.**
- <sup>18</sup> And so we shall not turn back from you:  
give us life, and we will call upon your name.
- <sup>19</sup> **Restore us again, O Lord of hosts:  
show us the light of your countenance,  
and we shall be saved.**

### **A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans.**

<sup>1</sup> Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, <sup>2</sup> which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, <sup>3</sup> the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh <sup>4</sup> and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our

Lord,<sup>5</sup> through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name,<sup>6</sup> including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,<sup>7</sup> To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. *Romans 1.1-7*

Hear the word of the Lord  
**thanks be to God.**

**'Early Talk'**

**Gradual Hymn:  
MP 375 'Jesus name above  
names ...'**



The Gospel of our Lord Jesus  
Christ according to Matthew

**Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

<sup>18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.

<sup>19</sup> Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly.

<sup>20</sup> But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

<sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.'

<sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

<sup>23</sup> 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.'

<sup>24</sup> When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife,

<sup>25</sup> but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus. *Matthew 1.18-25*

For the Gospel of the Lord,

**praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**

**Sermon**

**Affirmation of Faith**

## **Intercessions and Lord's Prayer.**

Everlasting God we come today on this last Sunday of our Advent journey towards Christmas and we give thanks as we remember those journeys that were being taken on that first Christmas 2000 years ago.

### **Hear us as we pray:-**

\*For our broken world. For an end to persecution, violence and wars. For new hope, justice and relief for refugees and asylum seekers.

\*For an end to the terrible bush fires in our country. For the management of our bushlands to prevent increased risk of fire storms. Inspire our leaders with calm and rational response to the best way of managing climate change.

\*We give thanks for the wonderful services and volunteers in our country. The people of the CFA, SES, Police Force, Red Cross etc. and so many more.

\*For Bishop Richard's spiritual leadership of the Diocese.

\*For the Episcopal District of Bunyip: Ken Parker. The Episcopal District of East Pakenham: Chris McAleer, Karen. The Diocese of Bathurst: Bishop Ian Palmer.

\*\*We give praise and heartfelt thanks for the blessing of our Minister Dave and his beautiful family. May we be ever conscious and grateful for his grace and loving ministry. We pray that Dave, Emma their boys and all parishioners will travel safely through this holiday season and that those on holidays will return rested and refreshed.

\*We give thanks for the response to the Stratford Community Carols by Candlelight last Sunday evening and the constructive debrief meeting that followed on Thursday.

\*For a time of joy, safety and refreshment for our mainly music families and op shop volunteers over the summer vacation.

***\*For this month's Retiring Offertory in support of The Christmas Bowl.***

We pray for the sick, the sad and suffering, and all who care for them.

We pray especially at this time for *Phillip, Peter, Ruth, Aileen, Peter T., Brenda, Mark, Alice, Kerrie, Scarlet, Boyd, Brian, Jacob, Emma, Crystal, Pete, Prec, Bruce, Geoff, Daryl, Jan, Bob, Craig, Richard, Gail, Karen, Julie and Mick.*

In your goodness and mercy grant them health of body, soundness of mind and peace of heart.

Gracious God, who chose Mary to be the mother of the promised saviour: fill us with your grace, that like Mary we might rejoice in your salvation; send us out to finish our Advent journey filled with love and joy and peace ready to receive that promise afresh into our lives.

## Greeting of Peace

Offertory Hymn: MP 749 'What child is this? . . .'    Offertory Prayer  
The Great Thanksgiving and Communion.

Sending out of God's people.                      Announcements.

Final Hymn: 'And all the people said Amen . . .'

## Blessing, Dismissal and Recessional Music

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### NEWS AND NOTES

The Stratford Community Carols Event on Sunday evening last was attended by more than 300 people. Our heartfelt thanks to many people including our sponsors Wellington Shire Council and Marathon Electrical. Partnering organisation, the Stratford Lions Club provided the popular Sausage Sizzle, set up seating, collected and took care of the offertory and assisted with clearing away. A very constructive post event 'de brief' meeting on Thursday included an evaluation of the event and recommendations. An evaluative report with suggested recommendations for next year's event, will be forwarded to members before the next meeting of the Stratford Community Carols Committee.

Also on Thursday morning last, the mainly music volunteers enjoyed an end of year 'Morning Coffee and Cake' at Wa de Lock. May Kyne thanked all present for their support over the year.

**We pray that all in our Avon family of faith will enjoy a safe and richly 'Blessed and Happy Christmas' with family and friends. We especially ask God that 2020 will be a year of good health, peace and happiness for everyone.**

**\*We hope to see many parishioners and friends at some of the Christmas Services where together we will sing praise and give thanks for the wonderful miracle birth of our Saviour, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Next Sunday 29 December, there will be just one service in the parish. At 10am parishioners of All Saints, St Mary's and Holy Trinity will join together in worship and fellowship at All Saints Church Briagolong. Our All Saints ladies will need some assistance with morning tea please.**

**Tues 24th                      6pm Family Christmas Service at Holy Trinity.**

**Tues 24th                      8pm Christmas Eve, Holy Communion at \*\*All Saints.  
Bishop Richard Attending.**

**Tues 24th                      11pm. Candle-lite Holy Communion at Holy Trinity.  
Bishop Richard Attending.**

**Wed 25th                      8.30am & 10am Christmas Day HC at Munro & Stratford.**

## WHAT'S ON IN THE PARISH THIS MONTH

**DECEMBER** *Christmas Bowl . . . Act for Peace, Please give generously.*

*Fridays 9am Morning Prayer at Holy Trinity*

*School Holidays: Saturday 21st December to Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2020.*

**Sun 29<sup>th</sup>** First Sunday after Christmas. Combined Churches Service at All Saints Church Briagolong.

### **JANUARY**

*Fridays 9am Morning Prayer at Holy Trinity*

*School resumes Wednesday 29 January 2020. mainly music commences in Feb.*

*Dave and family on leave 7<sup>th</sup> till the 20<sup>th</sup> January*

**Retiring Offertory: Project 123**

**Wed 1** New Year's Day. New Offertory Envelopes

**Sun 5** The Epiphany of Our Lord. The Baptism of Our Lord.  
All Age Family Worship at Holy Trinity

**Sun 12** First Sunday after Epiphany. Baptism of the Lord  
4pm Healing Service

**Wed 15** Parish Council Reports to Secretary

**Sat 18** 8.30am Men's Breakfast Group.

**Sun 19** Second Sunday after Epiphany.

**Wed 22** **Safe Church Ministry Meeting**

**Thurs 23** 7.30pm Parish Council Meeting

**11am. Family Fun Fair Planning Meeting**

**Fri 24** Summer Parish Dinner at Briagolong Hotel

**Sun 26** Third Sunday after Epiphany. Australia Day

**Mon 27** Public Holiday

**Wed. 29** *School Resumes.*

### Holy Trinity Roster – 29 December, First Sunday after Christmas

Isaiah 63.7-9. Ps. 148. Hebrews 2.10-18. Matt. 2.13-23

Priest: Dave. Lit Assist Vic, Judy T. Read: Nola, Gail.

Intercess: Vic. Org: May. Sides: Nola, Bev H. PPT: Judy K

Flowers: Judy T. MT: Gail, Paul, Lillas. Sacristan: May

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